maintaining one or more update databases with a plurality of update records, the update records including at least one indication of whether a database record should be excluded from a search result;

searching a database for database records responsive to a query and returning database records responsive to the query;

searching an update database associated with the database for database records responsive to the query and returning update records responsive to the query; and

excluding from the search results database records that correspond to returned update records if the update records include an indication that the database record should be excluded from the search.

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2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising including in the search results at least one update record that does not include an indication that the database record should be excluded from a search.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the indication comprises at least one field configurable to at least one predefined value.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein database records and update records include a plurality of fields, and database records and update records correspond when the fields of a database record are substantially similar to the fields of an update record.

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5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying one or more update databases associated with a database.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining a search-routing database, said search-routing database including a plurality of search-routing database records comprised of search-routing database fields, said

search-routing database fields including a database-identifier field and one or more database fields;

receiving a query from a user, said query comprised of search request data in search request fields of predetermined types;

selecting search request data in at least one of the search fields;

searching said search-routing database for one or more database identifiers, based on the selected search request data; and

routing the query to the databases identified by said database identifiers and the update databases associated therewith.

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7. (Amended) A system for updating database records, comprising:

a plurality of databases, said databases including database records having database fields;

one or more update databases, said update databases including update records having update database fields, at least one of the update database fields indicating how to update a database record;

a search engine for searching one or more of the databases for database records responsive to a query, returning database records responsive to the query, searching one or more update databases associated with the databases for update records responsive to the query, and returning update records responsive to the query; and

a sorter for generating results from the search of the databases and update databases, and excluding from the results database records that correspond to update records if the update records include an indication that the database record should be excluded from the search.

8. (Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the generated results include at least one update record that does not indicate that at least one database record should be excluded from the search.

9. (Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein database records and update records correspond when the fields of a database record are substantially similar to the fields of an update record.

10. (Amended) The system of claim 7, further comprising:

a search-routing database, said search-routing database including search-routing database records comprised of search-routing database fields, said search-routing database fields including a database-identifier field and one or more said database fields;

an input device for receiving a query from a user, said query comprised of search request data in search request fields of predetermined types;

a search router for receiving the query and selecting search request data in at least one of the search fields;

a search engine for searching said search-routing database for one or more database identifiers, said database identifiers identifying one or more databases having database records responsive to said query.

11. (Amended) The system of claim 10, further comprising a table for identifying one or more update databases associated with one or more databases having database records responsive to said query.

12. (Amended) A method of routing search requests comprising:

receiving a search request at a receiving server, the receiving server having one or more databases accessible for searching;

searching a routing database to determine whether the search request should be routed to the one or more databases accessible by the receiving server; and

if it is determined that the search request should be routed to the one or more databases accessible to the receiving server:

routing the search request to the one or more databases accessible by the receiving server;

searching the one or more databases of the receiving server; and

returning the results of the search.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the determining includes analyzing the search request to identify one or more items of routing data.

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14. (Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising routing the search request to a second server if it is determined that the search request should not be routed to the databases accessible by the receiving server.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said second server is remotely located from the receiving server.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising routing the search request to an update database having a plurality of records for updating one or more of the databases.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising merging the search results returned from the databases with the search results returned from the update database.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising routing the search request to the one or more databases accessible by said second server.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising returning to the receiving server the results of the search obtained in response to the routing of the search request to the one or more databases accessible by said second server.

20. (Amended) A system for routing search requests comprising:

an input device for receiving a search request; and

a receiving server having one or more databases accessible for searching,

wherein the receiving server is capable of searching a routing database to determine whether the search request should be routed to the one or more databases accessible by the receiving server, and routing the search request to the one or more databases accessible by the receiving server if it is determined that the search request should be routed to the one or more databases accessible by the receiving server.

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21. (Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the receiving server determines said search request routing by analyzing the search request to identify one or more items of routing data.

22. (Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the receiving server routes the search request to a second server if it is determined that the search request should not be routed to the databases accessible by the receiving server.

23. (Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the second server is remotely located from the receiving server.

24. (Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the second server routes the search request to the one or more databases accessible by the second server.

25. (Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the second server returns the results of the search obtained in response to the routing of the search request to the one or more databases accessible by the second server.

26. (Amended) The system of claim 20, further comprising an update database having a plurality of records for updating one or more of the databases.

27. (Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the receiving server routes the search request to the update database in addition to the one or more databases.

28. (Amended) The system of claim 27, wherein the receiving server merges the search results returned from the one or more databases with the search results returned from the update databases.

29. (Amended) A method of routing search requests comprising:

maintaining a routing database for identifying one or more database to search in response to a search request;

receiving the search request;

searching the routing database to determine at least one route to one or more databases to search in response to the search request;

if the search of the routing database is successful, routing the search request to a database identified by the routing database; and

in other instances, routing the search request to a database identified by one or more default routes.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising analyzing the search request to identify one or more items of routing data.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising searching a routing database with the identified one or more items of routing data to identify one or more databases to which the search request should be routed.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the routing databases identifies at least one route to one or more database that are appropriate to search in response to the search request.

33. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the search request is routed to a database identified by the one or more default routes if the search request does not include a field that is used for routing.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the search request is routed to a database identified by the one or more default routes if the search request includes a field that is used for routing but the field has an unspecified value.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the search request is routed to a database identified by the one or more default routes if the search request includes a field that is used for routing but the data populating the field does not correspond to any entries in the routing databases.